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Application No.: 09/821,094

Docket No. 740116-315

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20 (Previously Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) Optical proximity switch with a housing, wherein an optics module and an a separate electronics module are located in the housing;

wherein the electronics module has all electronic components necessary for operating the optical proximity switch.

wherein the housing contains a receiving means and wherein the optics module has comprises an engagement device by which the optics module is attached in the housing by engagement of the engagement device in the receiving means, and

wherein the housing has two side walls at an angle to one another and a light passage opening in one of the side walls;

wherein the engagement device of the optics module is adapted to enable the optics module to be installed in the housing in at least two different orientations which correspond to an alignment of the optics module relative to the light passage opening.

22. (Previously Added) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a transmitter, wherein the transmitter is located in a receptacle device which is provided in the optics module.

23. (Previously Added) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a receiver, wherein the receiver is a component of the electronics module.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Added) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, wherein the electronics module comprises a flexible, foldable conductor film.

26. (Currently Amended) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, wherein the receiving means and the engagement device ~~comprises~~ comprise on of holes and pins and a tongue and groove system.

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27. (Previously Added) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, wherein the engagement device is engaged in the receiving means.

28. (Previously Added) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 22, wherein the transmitter is a laser diode.

29. (Previously Added) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 23, wherein the receiver is a large-area photodiode.

30. (Currently Amended) Optical proximity switch with a housing, wherein an optics module and ~~an~~ a separate electronics module are located in the housing;

wherein the electronics module has all electronic components necessary for operating the optical proximity switch.

wherein the optics module is pivotally mounted in the housing for rotation around a longitudinal axis thereof and wherein the electronics module is fixed in the housing.

31. (Previously Added) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 30, wherein the housing has two side walls which are at an angle to one another;

wherein a light passage opening is provided in each of the side walls and the optics module is pivotally mounted in the housing enabling the optics module to be selectively aligned with either one of the two light passage openings.

32. (Previously Added) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 30, wherein two side walls of the housing are at an angle to one another and are connected to one another by a cylindrical sector-shaped wall section having a continuous light passage opening; and

wherein the optics module is pivotally mounted in the housing for positioning at any area of the light passage opening.

--33. (New) Optical proximity switch as recited in claim 21, wherein the electronics module is configurable to adapt to each of the different orientations of the optics module.--